

Message Text

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SUBJ: DOXA OPINION POLL IN L'EUROPEO OF NOVEMBER 21

SUMMARY: NEW OPINION POLL BE LEADING ITALIAN OPINION SAMPLING ORGANIZATION REVEALS SHARP RISE IN ACCEPTANCE OF PCI ROLE IN GOVERNMENT. DOXA PROFESSIONAL OUT FIT BUT METHODOLOGY AND EXTENT OF SAMPLE NOT REVEALED.

1. TWO POLLS CARRIED OUT BY DOXA, ITALY'S LEADING POLLING ORGANIZATION, FOR THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE L'EUROPEO, PURPORT TO SHOW A DRAMATIC RISE DURING THE LAST TEN MONTHS IN THE ACCEPTABILITY OF

THE IDEA OF FORMAL COMMUNIST PARTICIAPTION IN GOVERNMENT. THE TWO POLLS WERE TAKEN IN AUTUMN OF 1974 AND SUMMER OF 1975 AFTER THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS WHICH REGISTERED SHARP PCI GAINS.

HIGHLIGHTS:

1) THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE FAVORING PCI PARTICIAPTION IN GOVERNMENT ROSE FROM 25 TO 39 0/0;

2) THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE OPPOSED DIMINISHED FROM 34.1 TO 31.3 0/0. L'EUROPEO CONCLUDES THAT THE RISE IN THOSE FAVORING CAME NOT FROM HABITUAL ANTI-COMMUNISTS BUT FROM THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED A "DON'T KNOW."

(THIS NUMBER DECLINED FROM 38,9 TO 25.8) THE MAGAZINE ADDS THAT THE "DON'T KNOWS" ARE MADE UP OF PROPLE WHO GENUINELY DON'T KNOW, BUT ALSO OF PEOPLE WHO PREVIOULSY WISHED TO HIDE

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THEIR PRO-COMMUNISM BUT WHO WERE ENCOURAGED TO EMERGE FROM THE

WOODWORK BY THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS.)

3.) WHILE 47.8 OF PSI SUPPORTERS FAVORED PCI ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT, 30.8 0/0 WERE OPPOSED. ACCORDING TO L'EUROPEO, THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THOSE OPPOSED REVEALS POLITICAL, RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL, PREOCCUPATIONS.

4) SUPPORT FOR THE PCI IS STRONGEST AMONG MALES; THE 15-24 AGE GROUP; THOSE WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATIONS; THOSE WHO COME FROM THE LOWEST SOCIAL CLASS (BUT ONLY BY A SLIGHT MARGIN OVER THE MIDDLE CLASS 40.8 TO 39.7); AND THOSE FROM CENTRAL ITALY. OPPOSITION IS ALSO STRONGEST AMONG MALES (37.6 FEMALES RESPONDED "DON'T KNOW"); THE 45-64 AGE GROUP; THE BEST EDUCATED; THE UPPER CLASS; AND SOUTHERN ITALY.

2. L'EUROPEO FINDS SURPRISING THE PERCENTAGE OF "DON'T KNOWS" AMONG THE UPPER CLASS (37.3, SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE OPPOSED.)

3. L'EUROPEO CONCLUDES THAT THE INTERESTING AND "PARTIALLY CONTRADICTORY" RESULTS ARE UNDERSTANDABLE IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PESSIMISM, WHEN MANY ITALIANS LOOK FOR RADICAL CHANGE.

4. WE HAVE INCLUDED THREE OF THE TABLES. WE ARE CHECKING INTO DOXA'S METHODOLOGY AND THE NATURE OF THE SAMPLE, TO BE FURNISHED LATER. DOXA IS, HOWEVER, ITALY'S LEADING OPINION SAMPLER AND REGARDED AS PROFESSIONALLY COMPETENT.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU BE FAVORABLE OR CONTRARY TO THE ENTRY OF THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT?

TABLE 1. FAVORABLE AND CONTRARY TO THE ENTRY OF THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT. JULY 1974 RESULTS ARE COMPARED TO POLL TAKEN IN SEPTEMBER, 1975:

	1974	1975	DIFFERENCE
FAVORABLE.....	24.6	39.2	PLUS 14.6

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CONTRARY.....	34.1	31.3	- 2.8
OTHER ANSWERS.....	2.4	3.7	PLUS 1.3
DON'T KNOW.....	38.9	25.8	- 13.1
	100.0	100.0	

TABLE 2. FAVORABLE OR CONTRARY TO THE ENTRY OF THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO POLITICAL ORIENTATION

(END OF SUMMER 1975):

100 100 ADULTS WILL PROBABLY VOTE FOR:

ADULTS PCI PSI PRI-PSDI DC PLI MSI NON-CL

 FAVORABLE...39.2 93.3 47.8 21.6 7.4 --- 17.4
 CONTRARY....31.3 1.1 30.8 51.0 73.9 100.0 95.7 20.9
 OTHER..... 3.7 1.5 6.3 5.9 1.5 -- 3.3 5.4
 DON'T KNOW..25.8 4.1 15.1 21.5 17.2 1- -- 56.2

 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0

TABLE 3.

----- FAVORABLE OR CONTRARY TO THE ENTRY OF THE COMMUNISTS
 AND OF THE LIBERALS INTO THE GOVERNMENT,

COMMUNISTS IN GOI? LIBERALS IN GOI?

 FAV. CONT.NOTSURE FAV.CONT. NOT SURE

1. SEX

MALE.....46.4 32.7 20.9 18.8 53.4 27.8
 FEMALE.....32.5 29.9 37.6 13.7 37.2 49.1

2. AGE

15-24 YRS.....57.0 26.2 26.8 12.8 61.0 26.2
 25-44 YRS.....44.4 28.9 26.7 15.2 49.3 35.5
 45-64 YRS.....33.5 35.0 31.5 16.8 39.6 43.6
 OVER 64.....21.3 34.1 44.6 20.7 29.9 49.4

3. EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY(OR NIL)....36.1 29.2 34.7 12.7 41.3 46.0
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MIDDLE.....50.2 30.0 18.9 19.3 51.8 28.9
 HIGH.....37.9 39.7 22.4 25.9 51.2 22.9

4. SOCIAL CLASS

UPPER.....26.7 36.0 37.3 34.7 33.3 32.0
 MEDIUM.....39.7 34.4 25.9 19.0 48.4 32.6
 LOWER.....40.8 27.3 31.9 10.3 43.3 46.4

5. GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

NORTHERN ITALY.....38.3 27.9 33.8 18.0 38.9 43.1
 CENTRAL ITALY.....44.1 23.0 32.9 12.7 46.6 40.7
 SOUTHERN ITALY.....37.7 41.2 21.1 15.5 52.9 31.6
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